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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05768 01 OF 02 050019Z  
ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(D), 1.4(B)

INFO LOG-00 COR-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00  
EUR-01 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 ADS-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01  
SCT-03 SNP-01 SP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00  
/032W

-----2E6DCF 050047Z /72/38

P 271340Z APR 92  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2940  
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05768

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C  
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, BE, RW, BY  
SUBJECT: GOB VIEWS ON POSSIBLE BELGIAN INITIATIVE IN  
RWANDA AND BURUNDI

REF: A) BUJUMBURA 1757 B) BUJUMBURA 1758 C) BUJUMBURA  
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1770 D) KIGALI 1667

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

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SUMMARY  
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2. BELGIAN FONMIN CLAES, IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY  
QUESTIONING, HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN  
RWANDA BUT SAYS THE GOB WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR HUMAN

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RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY. THE MFA HAS DEVELOPED A POSSIBLE "BELGIAN INITIATIVE" IN RWANDA, BURUNDI, AND UGANDA. THE GOB WILL DEMARCHE RWANDA AND BURUNDI TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER CURRENT TENSIONS BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF MEDIATING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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1.4(B), 1.4(D)

3. BELGIUM IS PLANNING TO SUPPORT A FRENCH INITIATIVE IN UGANDA TO CONVINCE MUSEVENI NOT TO ASSIST THE RPF'S ACTIONS AGAINST RWANDA. THE BELGIANS SEE THIS MEASURE, HOWEVER, AS SEPARATE FROM THEIR DEMARCHES IN BURUNDI AND RWANDA. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND BELGIAN CITIZENS STILL IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI, THE GOB PLANS TO ADOPT A CAUTIOUS, WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE AND HAS NO INTENTION TO DO MORE FOR THE MOMENT. END SUMMARY.

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GOB IS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS IN RWANDA BUT WILL CONTINUE  
TO KEEP AN EYE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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4. BELGIAN MEDIA REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON FONMIN CLAES' RESPONSES DURING AN APRIL 22 CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DEBATE ABOUT BELGIUM'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS RWANDA. SPECIFICALLY, PARLIAMENTARIANS WANTED TO KNOW WHY BELGIUM CASTIGATED ZAIRE BUT NOT RWANDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND WHAT THE GOB PROPOSES TO DO TO EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

5. CLAES PRAISED THE DEMOCRATIZATION EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY IN RWANDA AND ATTRIBUTED PROGRESS TO BELGIAN, EC, AND USG INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA. HE SINGLED OUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTIPARTY GOVERNMENT, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INQUIRY INTO RECENT KILLINGS, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE AS WELCOME SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT. "THE GOB DID NOT HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD," HE SAID, AND WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR RWANDA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD CLOSELY. CLAES ALSO MENTIONED IN GENERAL TERMS A POSSIBLE "BELGIAN INITIATIVE DESTINED TO STIMULATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN RWANDA, BURUNDI, AND UGANDA".

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GOB WILL DEMARCHE BURUNDI AND RWANDA...  
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6. ON APRIL 23, POLOFF CALLED ON [REDACTED] MFA  
[REDACTED] SEEKING A CLARIFICATION ON  
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1.4(D)

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CLAES' STATEMENT. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED THAT THE FONMIN HAD IN  
MIND A BELGIAN DEMARCHE WHICH WAS TO BE MADE IN BUJUMBURA  
AND KIGALI. THE DEMARCHE WILL CONVEY THE GOB'S CONCERN  
OVER THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO  
COUNTRIES. BELGIUM IS PARTICULARLY WORRIED THAT THE  
BORDER TENSIONS AND ARMED INSURGENCIES NOW BEDEVILLING  
BOTH RWANDA AND BURUNDI COULD BE USED BY HARDLINERS, ON  
EITHER SIDE, TO DERAIL DEMOCRATIZATION EFFORTS.

1.4(D)

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/031W

-----2B9B01 271339Z /38

P 271340Z APR 92  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2941  
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05768

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
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SUBJECT: GOB VIEWS ON POSSIBLE BELGIAN INITIATIVE IN  
RWANDA AND BURUNDI

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...BUT IS NOT ABOUT TO GET INVOLVED IN MEDIATING  
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7. [ ] ALSO SAID THE GOB MAY CONSULT WITH THE USG ON  
WHAT TACK TO TAKE BUT WANTED US TO KNOW THAT BELGIUM HAS  
NO INTENTION OF ACTING AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN BUJUMBURA AND  
KIGALI OR OF SUPPORTING A POLICY OF ARMED CONFRONTATION.  
BELGIUM'S MESSAGE WILL BE TO "COOL DOWN AND SOLVE THINGS  
YOURSELVES." SHOULD BURUNDI AND RWANDA ENGAGE IN ARMED  
CONFLICT, BELGIUM WILL LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY OF CUTTING  
AID, [ ] SAID. (CURRENT LEVELS OF BELGIAN AID ARE BF  
1.4 BILLION FOR RWANDA AND BF 1.3 BILLION FOR BURUNDI. BF  
34.00 EQUAL USD 1.00). THIS IS, HOWEVER, BELGIUM'S "BIG  
STICK," [ ] SAID, AND [ ] DOES NOT EXPECT THE MFA  
WILL HAVE TO WIELD IT.

1.4(D)

1.4(D)

1.4(D)

1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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UGANDAN INITIATIVE NOT TIED TO RWANDA/BURUNDI PROBLEM  
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10. THE GOB IS PLANNING TO SUPPORT A FRENCH INITIATIVE, TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EPC, THAT ASKS MUSEVENI TO CEASE SUPPORTING THE RPF IN ITS BATTLE AGAINST RWANDA.

1.4(B), 1.4(D)

IN THE MFA'S OPINION, THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO MAKE AN APPROACH THROUGH THE TWELVE. WHILE THE GOB DOES NOT OFFICIALLY LINK THE FRENCH INITIATIVE ON UGANDA TO RWANDA/BURUNDI PROBLEMS, IT RECOGNIZES THAT UGANDA'S POSITION CONTRIBUTES TO TENSION IN THE REGION AND IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH FRENCH EFFORTS.

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COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT, A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE  
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LL. BELGIUM'S RELATIONS WITH RWANDA AND BURUNDI ARE LESS EMOTIONALLY OR ECONOMICALLY CONTROVERSIAL THAN IS ITS INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL  
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SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF BELGIANS IN BOTH COUNTRIES (1500 IN

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RWANDA AND 1200 IN BURUNDI), THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO  
MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS. FOR THE MOMENT, BELGIUM HAS NO  
APPARENT INTENTION OF DOING MORE THAN THAT.  
GELB

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